

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report

April - May 2008

This document outlines key outputs of the ACT AOD Sector Project from mid April – mid May 2008.

Key AOD Sector Project activities:

- From April 11 – May 11 2008 the AOD Sector Project Website has received 130 visits. There have been 534 page views, the most popular being the AOD Services Directory page and About the AOD Sector Project page.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held on Thursday 24 April 2008, 9.30am – 11.30am at the Youth Coalition of the ACT. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. The guest speaker was Carrie Fowlie, Deputy Director, Youth Coalition of the ACT who provided participants with an overview of youth services in the ACT, including providing participants with key resources to make effective referrals and linkages with youth services in the ACT. All participating services received 1 copy of *The Big Red Book, the first handbook and directory for people who work with young people in the ACT*. 9 sector workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Directions ACT
 - Salvation Army
 - Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare
 - WIREDD
 - AOD Education Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- The monthly AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Thursday 1 May 2008.
- AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 229 to 235.
- A Drug Action Week (DAW) Planning Group was held Thursday 8 May 2008. Key items discussed included AOD conference planning update, DAW launch update and service activity planning. 8 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Program
 - Directions ACT

- Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
 - Lesleys Place
 - Save – A – Mate, Red Cross
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
- The Project team has organised a conference titled *Alcohol: Past, Present and Future* to be held on Wednesday 25 June 2008 from 8.30 – 5pm at the National Library. The Project Team has liaised with and confirmed speakers for the conference and has developed a flyer and registration form (see attached for more information). It has been agreed that AOD workers will get priority attendance and will be given a week to RSVP before the conference is promoted more widely. The Project Team has been liaising with an Elder to do a Welcome to Country. It was hoped that a Minister would be able to open the Conference but it is a sitting day for both the ACT and Federally.
 - The Project Team has been liaising with ADCA regarding Drug Action Week merchandise, and have placed a special order for ACT activities on behalf of services.
 - The Project Team has been organising a DAW launch to be held on Friday 20 June 2008 at the Legislative Assembly. AOD Services will be offered an opportunity to have a service stall at the launch. The Project is in the process of identifying someone to launch the week.
 - The Drug Action Week Planning Group have submitted items for the printed ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events. The Project Team will design and distribute the calendar. Over 15 activities have been contributed to the calendar.
 - Project Team has developed a distribution list to promote ACT DAW activities to. A large cross-sectoral mail out will be done to include the ACT Calendar of Events and Conference information.
 - A Workers' Group meeting was held on Thursday 8 May 2008. Key items that were discussed included AOD Services Directory, Comorbidity Project, Project evaluation, Review of the Liquor Act and the Review of Written Materials for Young People. 8 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Program
 - AOD Policy Unit
 - Directions ACT
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
 - Toora Women Inc.
 - The Project Team has been developing a pdf version of the AOD Services Directory that will be completed when the final 3 program profiles have been received. It is hoped that this initiative will be complete for Drug Action Week.
 - The May – June 2008 Training and Professional Development Calendar has been compiled and distributed to AOD services and allied sectors.

Some key issues to arise include:

- Staff turnover has meant that representation on the Workers' Group has not necessarily been handed over to new workers.
- We are still waiting on some service profiles to be completed which means that we have had to delay the development of a downloadable pdf version.
- As the eBulletin is produced monthly it means that some items that are time critical (such as job vacancies) cannot be included. This will be reviewed in the Project evaluation.

Key Comorbidity Project activities:

- Developed a draft Terms of Reference for the Project.
- Met with Centacare Comorbidity Project Officer to brief her on the DDCAT tool and implementation following the Comorbidity Project Team's attendance at the DDCAT training in Sydney.
- Met with NADA Senior Project Officer to discuss project implementation issues and share resources and information.
- Met with ADP Comorbidity Project Officer to introduce project and discuss opportunities for partnership and collaboration.
- Completed and delivered first Progress Report to Department of Health and Ageing, which included a Project Plan till the end of the calendar year. This can be distributed to stakeholders upon request.
- Provided support to Centacare Project Officer with getting their draft project plan submitted to DOHA.
- Participated in the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group.
- Provided a progress report to the AOD Workers Group.
- Participated in the first national Comorbidity Coordinator Network Group teleconference, composed of representatives of all the Comorbidity Project Officers from the national AOD peaks.
- Met with MHCCACT to introduce the ACT AOD Sector Project and the Comorbidity Project and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Engaged consultant, David McDonald, to assist us with the initial needs assessment of Improved Services Measure grant recipients.
- Contributed training and professional development opportunities to the Training and Professional Development Calendar and the AOD Sector eBulletin.

- Preliminary work has been done to establish two working groups to support the Comorbidity Project, including a strategic working group and a project officers working group.
- The Project is working with Ted Noffs ACT branch to identify ways in which we can support their organisation, whose head office is based in NSW, to support ACT based activities.
- The Project has support from the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

Some key issues to arise include:

- Positive pre-existing relationships with grant recipients have continued to build throughout the establishment phase of the Project.
- A partnership, which did not previously exist, has established with Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA).
- The Project has support and engagement from the entire ACT AOD sector – both Government and Non-Government agencies.
- The ACT AOD sector is very interested in the Improved Services initiative and working collaboratively as a sector to progress these issues, therefore the delay receiving information about Tranch B grant recipients has been frustrating for some stakeholders.
- General initiative teething problems such as: the timing of the release of templates, resources and training being through the Initiative; and clarifying the relationship and communication between DOHA Central Office, the ACT Branch and the Project.
- Due to the small size of our jurisdiction it is important that the Project identified the most effective way to progress the needs assessment. The Project decided to wait until the release of the final version of the DDCAT in March so that it could inform the design and implementation of the ACT needs assessment.

AOD Sector Project Staff:

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